III.—PRIVILEGE MATTER.

Publication of expunged portions of Assembly proceedings in the "Navasakthi"

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member Sri T. P. Alagamuthu has given notice of a matter of privilege. On 4—3—1966 when the Temporary Chairman, Sri M. Dhandayuthapani was in the Chair, the words used by the honourable lady Member Srimathi Kulandai Ammal, namely "பேச்சு தரக் குறைவானது" were ordered to be expunged by him. But in spite of this specific direction. I find that the newspaper "Navasakthi" in its issue, dated 5th March 1966 has repeated all the relevant remarks made in the House and finally concluded its report with the observation— "இந்த வார்த்தைகளை நீக்கிவிட தாற்காலிக சபா நாயகர் உத்தரவிட்டார்". After the Chairman has ordered the expunction of certain words, it is very interesting to know what amount of legal sense has prevailed with either the Reporter or the Editor in publishing the very words which were ordered to be expunged and then telling that the Chairman has ordered their expunction. I think evidently the persons concerned are ignorant of the rules. I want to make it very clear that if once it is ordered that a word be expunged or not to be reported, it means that the newspapers have no authority or right—rather it is wrong—to publish such a word in the Press. Since it is a technical matter and on the face of it I find that the persons concerned have committed a mistake, out of ignorance, I give a warning and leave the matter there.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I would like to make one point in this connection. I have nothing to say about the order of the Chairman to expunge certain portions of the proceedings. So far as the term is concerned, I do not think it is unparliamentary. If you will kindly agree with me, I would like your making it clear. In the context in which the term was used in the course of the speech, some heat was introduced and the Chairman perhaps rightly ordered that certain portion of the proceedings must be expunged. 'Tharak kuraivu' (தரக் குறைவு) means not up to the standard, the standard is lower. I think it is not objectionable and unparliamentary.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the words "தரக் குறைவு" by themselves are unparliamentary when they are used impersonally.

IV.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1966–67.

Demand No. XIII—Education.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I move—

"That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,30,53,500 under Demand No. XIII—Education."